

Claims

1. A method for processing large stamped letters, wherein the large letters (1) are fed, lying on a conveying means (12) and mixed with other mailings, to a sorting station (10) at which the flow of mailings is divided at least into machine-readable large letters (1) and other mailings, characterized in that the machine-readable large letters (1) are placed with the stamps (3) at the top in a sorting station (10) on a conveying means (7) that leads them to further processing stations, has a reference edge (6) in the conveying direction and is inclined in the conveying direction, the letter edge parallel to the address lines, in the proximity of which the stamps (3) are located, rests against the reference edge (6), the stamps (3) are automatically cancelled by a canceling device (4) arranged closely above the leading-away conveying means (7), and at a lateral spacing from the reference edge (6) which corresponds to the spacing of the stamps (3) from said letter edge, and that a locally fixed rotation element (8) then rotates through 90° the large letters (1) as they are conveyed onwards with the shorter letter edge resting against the reference edge (6), so that thereafter the longer letter edge likewise rests on the reference edge (6).
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a sensor (5) that detects the leading letter edge is provided, from the signal and spacing from the canceling device (4) of which and from the conveying speed, the start time of the canceling device (4) for canceling the respective large letter (1) is determined.

3. The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the sensor (5) detecting the leading letter edge, from the signal of which the start time of the canceling device (4) for canceling the respective large letter (1) is determined, is
5 provided in the canceling device (4).

4. The method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the spacing of the stamps (3) from the leading letter edge is determined for each large letter (1) and this spacing
10 is incorporated into the determination of the respective start time of the canceling device (4).

5. The method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the canceling procedure proceeds over a fixed period of
15 time.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that provided as a canceling device (4) is a stamping device with a roller stamp which is resiliently pressed onto the large
20 letter (1) for canceling.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the spacing of the rotation element (8) from the reference edge is greater than the greatest width and less than the
25 smallest height of the accepted large letters (1).

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the rotation element (8) is constructed as a rotatably mounted, upright cylinder.
30

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the cylinder is driven and has a direction of rotation which is opposite to the conveying direction.

10. A device for processing stamped large letters, comprising a sorting station (10) at which a flow of mailings fed to a conveying means (12) is divided at least into machine-readable large letters (1) and other mailings, characterized by

- 5 - a conveying means (7) that leads the machine-readable large letters (1) in a horizontal position from the sorting station (10) to further processing stations and has a reference edge (6) in the conveying direction and is inclined in the conveying direction, the large letters (1) to be lead away
10 being placed on the leading-away conveying means (7) with the stamps (3) at the top such that the letter edges parallel to the address lines, in the proximity of which the stamps (3) are located, rest against the reference edge (6),
- a canceling device (4) arranged closely above the leading-
15 away conveying means (7) and at a spacing from the reference edge (6) which corresponds to the spacing of the stamps (3) from said letter edge, and
- a locally fixed rotation element (8) arranged downstream and rotating through 90° the large letters (1) as they are
20 conveyed onwards with the shorter letter edge resting against the reference edge (6).

11. The device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that a sensor (5) that detects the leading letter edge is provided,
25 and wherein from the signal and spacing from the canceling device (4) of which and from the conveying speed, the start time of the canceling device (4) for canceling the respective large letter (1) can be determined.

30 12. The device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the sensor (5) detecting the leading letter edge, from the signal of which the start time of the canceling device (4) for canceling the respective large letter (1) is determined, is provided in the canceling device (4).

13. The device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that provided as a canceling device (4) is a stamping device with a roller stamp which can be resiliently pressed onto the large
5 letter (1) for canceling.

14. The device as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the spacing of the rotation element (8) from the reference edge (6) is greater than the greatest width and less than the
10 smallest height of the large letters (1).

15. The device as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that the rotation element (8) is constructed as a rotatably mounted, upright cylinder.
15

16. The device as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the cylinder is driven and has a direction of rotation which is opposite to the direction of conveying.
20